



Seated (from left): Larry Gossett, Jane Hague (Council Vice Chair), Bob Ferguson (Council Chair), Julia Patterson, and Larry Phillips. **Standing** (from left): Jan Drago, Reagan Dunn, Peter von Reichbauer, and Kathy Lambert.

As your Metropolitan King County Council, we oversee the 14th most populous county in the nation and the second largest government in Washington State. With 1.9 million people living within 2,134 square miles, King County has a population larger than 14 states and covers more territory than the state of Rhode Island.

Our dedicated employees provide quality regional services every day to county residents. We are also the local government for the 350,000 people who live in the urban and rural unincorporated areas and provide services by contract to many of the county's 39 cities.

As the legislative branch of county government, the Council sets policies, enacts laws, and adopts budgets that guide an array of services for this region, including:

- the criminal justice system of prosecutors and public defenders, District and Superior Courts, juvenile detention and adult jails;
- the King County Sheriff's Office, which directly serves residents of unincorporated areas and contracts with many cities to provide police protection;
- public health and human services;
- Metro Transit bus service and county roads;

- wastewater treatment and solid waste management;
- regional parks, open space and trails; and
- elections, records, and licensing.

The nine members of the King County Council each represent a geographic district of about 200,000 residents. Councilmembers are elected on a nonpartisan basis and serve four-year terms.

The Council has four standing committees that oversee specific government functions, and a Committee of the Whole that includes all Councilmembers and examines issues of interest to the entire Council.

We also work closely with elected officials from local jurisdictions on three regional committees that address our common interests in matters of policy, transit, and water quality.

By carefully scrutinizing every ordinance, motion, and budget over many years, the Council has identified and implemented hundreds of millions of dollars in savings and efficiencies.

Get agendas, minutes, and meeting videos online at:
www.kingcounty.gov/council

Message from the Council Chair



Bob Ferguson
Council Chair

King County provides critical services that you rely on every day. We operate buses, maintain the wastewater system, manage courts and jails, and deliver direct services, such as police protection for unincorporated communities. As Chair, my priority is to ensure that we provide these services in a fiscally prudent, accountable, and transparent manner.

Like the state and other local governments, King County faces significant budget challenges during this economic downturn. We continue to take fiscally responsible action, including:

- balancing the 2010 budget;
- setting aside millions of dollars in a rainy day fund; and
- maintaining a stellar bond rating, which saves taxpayer dollars by lowering borrowing costs.

The Council is improving accountability by enhancing oversight of high-risk capital projects, such as Brightwater. To make government more accountable, we will continue to perform audits and follow through on their recommendations to improve services.

For example, the Council recently faced a \$213 million budget shortfall for Metro Transit and a proposed nine percent cut to bus service. Instead of business as usual, we required a comprehensive audit of Metro's operations. By implementing efficiencies identified in the audit and reprioritizing existing funds, we balanced Metro's budget and preserved bus service.

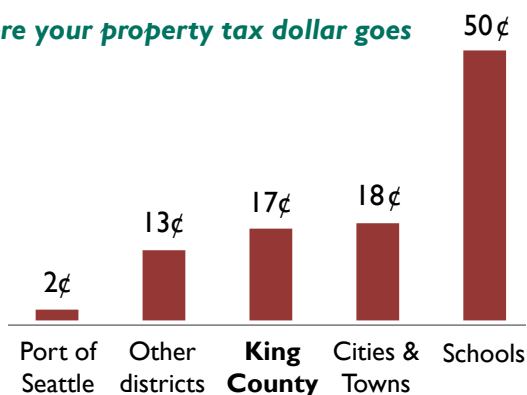
We are increasing transparency by improving the process of responding to public records requests and making the budget easier to understand, so you know how your tax dollars are spent.

Let me know how we are doing, and please use this resource guide to contact your representative and become engaged in county government. It is an honor to serve you.

Bob Ferguson

The county budget

Where your property tax dollar goes



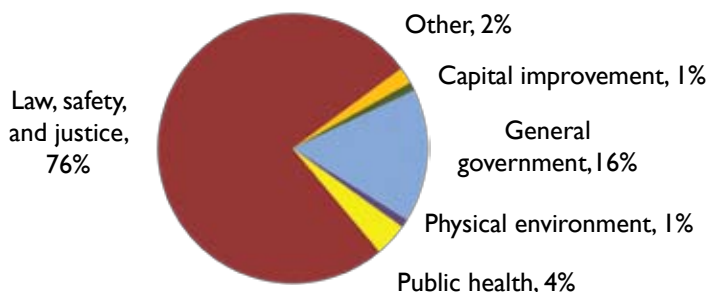
King County is the tax collector for all taxing districts within the county. Although the property tax check you write is payable to King County, the county receives only 17 cents for every dollar. The rest goes to other agencies (see bar graph at left).

The county budget is composed of two separate funds: dedicated funds and the general fund. Dedicated funds is the largest portion, at 87% of the total county budget. Dedicated funds can be utilized only for specific purposes, such as transit, sewage treatment, and voter-approved programs.

The smaller share of the county budget (13%), is the general fund that pays for critical day-to-day services not supported by other revenues. Three quarters of the general fund (76%) goes to support state-mandated criminal justice and public safety services, with the remainder paying for other programs, such as health and human services. (See pie chart at left.)

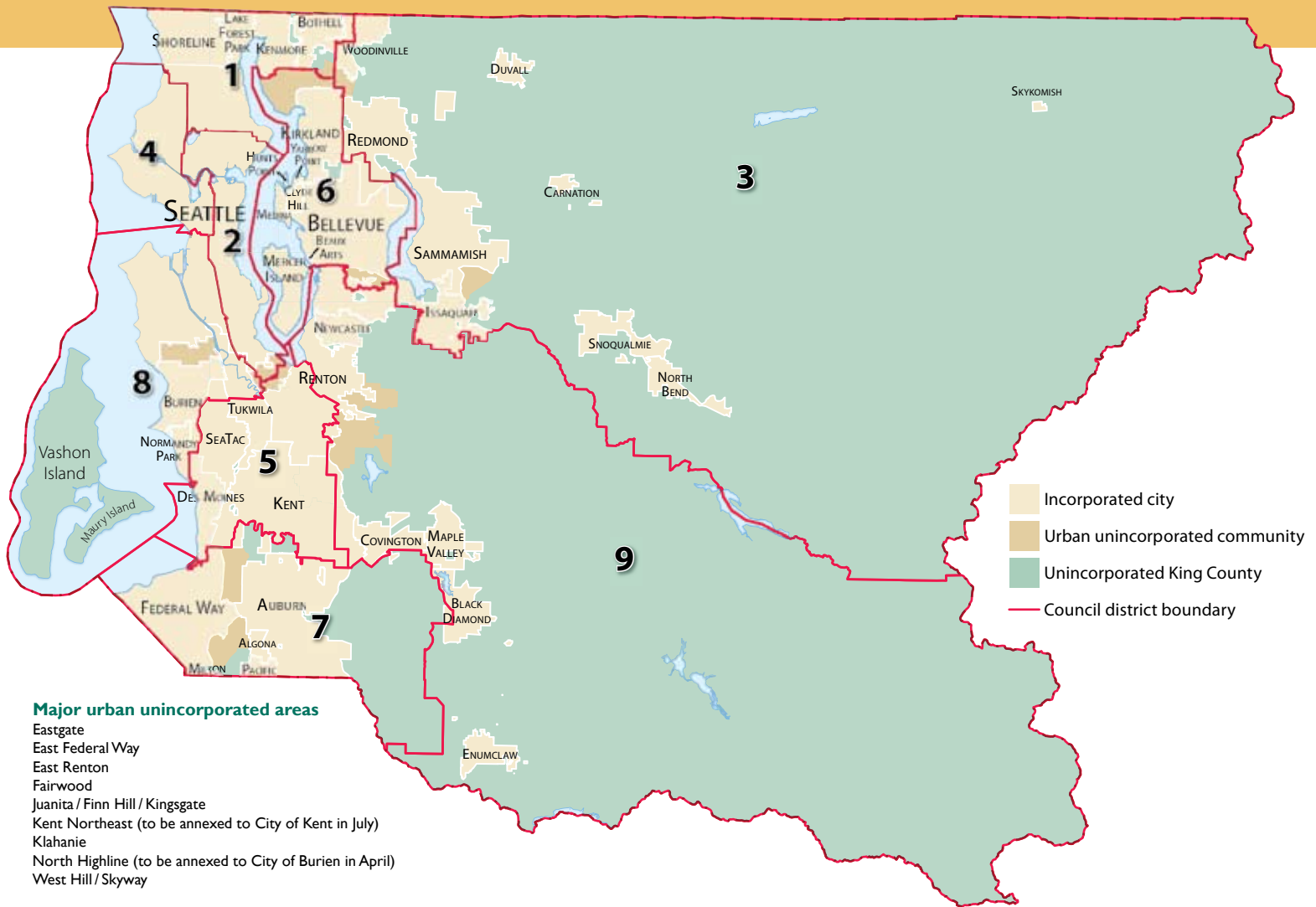
Counties across the state face a structural gap between revenue and cost of services. While expenses rise 4-5 percent a year, state law limits increases in property taxes to 1 percent plus revenue from new construction. The projected deficit, or difference between revenue and costs, is \$60 million for 2011. Previous deficits were \$56 million in 2010, and \$93 million in 2009.

General fund expenditures for 2010



More information at www.kingcounty.gov/council/budget

King County's urban and rural landscape



Contact information

The King County Council meets Mondays at 11:00 a.m. on the 10th floor of the King County Courthouse. You can watch all meetings held in the chambers live on King County TV, cable channel 22, and online at our Web site. Agendas, minutes, and archived video of past meetings are also available online at www.kingcounty.gov/council.

Mailing address

Metropolitan King County Council
King County Courthouse
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Seattle, WA 98104-3272

Telephone

(206) 296-1000, Toll-free: (800) 325-6165
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TTY/TDD: (206) 296-1024

Clerk of the Council

E-mail: anne.noris@kingcounty.gov
Telephone: (206) 296-0364

Online

Visit the Council Web site to sign up for RSS feeds of agendas and minutes, Twitter updates, and more.

Which Council district do I live in?

Enter your address at
www.kingcounty.gov/council/councilmembers

Dist.	Councilmember	Phone	E-mail
1	Bob Ferguson	296-1001	bob.ferguson@kingcounty.gov
2	Larry Gossett	296-1002	larry.gossett@kingcounty.gov
3	Kathy Lambert	296-1003	kathy.lambert@kingcounty.gov
4	Larry Phillips	296-1004	larry.phillips@kingcounty.gov
5	Julia Patterson	296-1005	julia.patterson@kingcounty.gov
6	Jane Hague	296-1006	jane.hague@kingcounty.gov
7	Peter von Reichbauer	296-1007	pete.vonreichbauer@kingcounty.gov
8	Jan Drago	296-1008	jan.drago@kingcounty.gov
9	Reagan Dunn	296-1009	reagan.dunn@kingcounty.gov

Committees and special governments

The King County Council reviews proposed legislation through a number of standing committees that oversee specific government functions. Councilmembers work closely with elected officials from local jurisdictions on regional committees that address common interests in policy, transit, and water quality. In addition, Councilmembers serve as the Board of Supervisors of two special-purpose governments, created under authority provided by the State Legislature.

Council committees

Committee of the Whole

Legislation and issues of interest to the entire Council, including the county strategic plan and labor policy.

Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.

Chair: Jane Hague

Vice Chair: Larry Phillips

Members: All Councilmembers

Budget and Fiscal Management

Capital and operating appropriations, structural gap between county revenues and costs, and oversight of annual county budget.

First and third Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m.

Chair: Julia Patterson

Vice Chair: Kathy Lambert

Members: Reagan Dunn, Larry Gossett, Jane Hague, Larry Phillips

Environment and Transportation

Growth management, the environment, solid waste, parks, utilities, transportation, and roads.

Second and fourth Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.

Chair: Larry Phillips

Vice Chair: Peter von Reichbauer

Members: Larry Gossett, Jane Hague, Julia Patterson

Government Accountability and Oversight

Strategic planning, performance management and measurement; efficiency, cost effectiveness, and oversight of county departments and programs.

First and third Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.

Chair: Kathy Lambert

Vice Chair: Jan Drago

Members: Reagan Dunn, Peter von Reichbauer

Law, Justice, Health, and Human Services

Public safety, public health, human services, housing, and emergency management.

Second and fourth Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m.

Chair: Reagan Dunn

Vice Chair: Larry Gossett

Members: Jan Drago, Bob Ferguson, Kathy Lambert

Regional committees

Regional Policy

Countywide plans and policies on issues such as human services, solid waste, public health, and criminal justice.

Second Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m.

Chair: Peter von Reichbauer

Vice Chair: Auburn Mayor Pete Lewis

Members: Reagan Dunn, Bob Ferguson

Suburban Cities Association Members: Issaquah Mayor Ava Frisinger, Federal Way Deputy Mayor Dini Duclos, Newcastle City Councilmember Sonny Putter

City of Seattle Members: Councilmember Tim Burgess, Councilmember Sally Clark

Regional Transit

Transit services; facilities such as bus shelters, park & ride lots, and bus bases; and passenger and operator safety.

Third Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m.

Chair: Larry Gossett

Vice Chair: Kathy Huckabay, Sammamish City Council

Members: Jane Hague, Julia Patterson

Suburban Cities Association Members: Redmond City Councilmember Kimberly Allen, Kenmore Mayor David Baker, Federal Way City Councilmember Jeanne Burbidge, Issaquah City Councilmember Fred Butler, Duvall Mayor Will Ibershof, Burien Mayor Joan McGilton, Renton City Councilmember Marcie Palmer, SeaTac Mayor Ralph Shape

City of Seattle Members: Councilmember Sally Bagshaw, Councilmember Tom Rasmussen

Regional Water Quality

Planning, financing, and operation of wastewater treatment facilities and other water quality concerns.

First Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m.

Chair: Jan Drago

Vice Chair: Bellevue Mayor Don Davidson

Members: Kathy Lambert, Larry Phillips

Suburban Cities Association Members: Shoreline City Councilmember Doris McConnell, Auburn City Councilmember Bill Peloza, Renton City Councilmember Rich Zwicker

Sewer District Members: Cedar River Water/Sewer District Commissioner Walter Canter, Southwest Suburban Sewer District Commissioner Bill Tracy

City of Seattle Members: Councilmember Richard Conlin, Councilmember Mike O'Brien

Special-purpose governments

King County Ferry District

Fourth Monday of January, April, July, and October at 1:30 p.m.
www.kingcountyferries.org

King County Flood Control District

Second Monday of January, April, July, and October at 1:30 p.m.
www.kingcountyfloodcontrol.org